



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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## **BAFFERT'S MOTHER MOTHER INVADES FOR FRONT-RUNNING RAGS TO RICHES WIN**

**LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Sunday, Oct. 28, 2018)** – Southern California invader and Del Mar Debutante (Grade I) runner-up **Mother Mother** led nearly every step of the way in Sunday's sixth running of the \$103,116 Rags to Riches Overnight Stakes to easily beat late-running **Molto Bella** by 1 ¾ lengths on opening day of Churchill Downs' 21-day Fall Meet.

Ridden by **Florent Geroux** and trained by Hall of Famer **Bob Baffert**, Mother Mother broke alertly from post No. 2 in the field of seven 2-year-old fillies and comfortably rattled off quarter-mile splits of :22.55, :45.16 and 1:09.82 over the "fast" track before stopping the teletimer in 1:36.72 for the one-mile race.

"When Bob sends horses to Kentucky, you can always feel confident putting them up into the race," said Geroux, who won last year's Rags to Riches aboard eventual Longines Kentucky Oaks winner **Monomoy Girl** – a top contender in Saturday's \$4 million Breeders' Cup Distaff (GI). "She ended up getting a little tired late but put her head down and tried hard to the end. She is very professional. She switched leads at the right time and tried hard."

Mother Mother earned \$61,503 for her ownership group of **George Bolton, Barry Hall, Barry Lipman, Mark Mathiesen** and **Andrew Molasky**. She paid \$5.40, \$4.20 and \$3.60 as the 8-5 second betting choice. Molto Bella, who chased the winner while racing greenly in the stretch under **Brian Hernandez Jr.**, returned \$14.40 and \$10.60 at odds of 26-1. **High Regard**, ridden by **Corey Lanerie**, was another 2 ½ lengths back in third and paid \$6.40.

**Princesa Carolina**, 7-5 favorite **Take Charge Angel** and **Into Mystic** completed the order of finish. The latter two pressed the winner early on before fading back in the stretch. **Chocolate Kisses** hopped at the start and dropped jockey **Julien Leparoux**, who was uninjured in the incident. **Love My Honey** and **My Wynter Rose** were scratched.

Mother Mother, who improved her record to 3-2-1-0—\$157,503, is a half-sister to 2014 Kentucky Derby runner-up **Commanding Curve** and was bred in Kentucky by **T. F. VanMeter**. She is by stallion Pioneer of the Nile out of the Lion Hearted mare Mother.

"She got a little bit of a temperature after her last race which threw the Breeders' Cup plans out," said Baffert's chief assistant Jimmy Barnes. "Bob said, 'Let's go out there and see what happens.' We added blinkers to get her a little bit more aggressive. She was a little laid back but they've shown they help."

## **RAGS TO RICHES QUOTES**

**Florent Geroux, jockey of MOTHER MOTHER (winner):** "When Bob sends horses to Kentucky, you can always feel confident putting them up into the race. She ended up getting a little tired late but put her head down and tried hard to the end. She is very professional. She switched leads at the right time and tried hard."

**Jimmy Barnes, assistant trainer of MOTHER MOTHER:** "She got a little bit of a temperature after her last race which threw the Breeders' Cup plans out. Bob said, 'Let's go out there and see what happens.' We added blinkers to get her a little bit more aggressive. She was a little laid back but they've shown they help."

**Brian Hernandez Jr., jockey of MOLTO BELLA (runner-up):** "She ran really well. I thought she had a great trip but just didn't get to the winner."

**Corey Lanerie, jockey of High Regard (third):** "When we swung out I thought we maybe could've gotten second."

**Julien Leparoux, jockey of Chocolate Kisses (last):** "She just stumbled pretty bad out of the gate. I'm okay – just a bad scenario."

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## DUNPH WINS SPENDTHRIFT JUVENILE STALLION STAKES BY 7 ¾ LENGTHS

**LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Sunday, Oct. 28, 2018) – Joseph Besecker and Three Diamonds Farm's Dunph** tracked early leader **B. B. Dude**, took command midway around the turn and impressively kicked clear in deep stretch to comfortably win Sunday's third running of the \$300,000 Spendthrift Juvenile Stallion Stakes by 7 ¾ lengths over **Naughty Joker** on opening day of Churchill Downs' 21-day Fall Meet.

The Spendthrift Juvenile Stallion is a lucrative race exclusively for 2-year-old offspring sired by any active or non-active Spendthrift stallion, including all Spendthrift-owned stallions standing regionally in North America. The \$300,000 purse was structured with a unique approach to award \$150,000 to the breeders of the top four placed horses, with the remaining \$150,000 allocated to the owners.

Dunph, an unbeaten 2-year-old gelded son of Temple City out of the Sky Mesa mare Skymynx, ran seven furlongs over a "fast" track in 1:23.20 and earned \$89,280 for the win to push his bankroll to \$105,540. **Tyler Gaffalione**, fresh off his first Keeneland riding title, rode the winner for trainer **Mike Maker**.

"The horse broke really sharp and I got into the spot I wanted," Gaffalione said. "When I turned for home I still had a ton of horse left. I think he'll just keep getting better as the distances get longer. I think I like it here in Kentucky."

Previously, Dunph won his career debut at Penn National in a one-mile maiden special weight by 8 ½ lengths.

"That was very impressive," Maker said. "He's been doing well over at Trackside and has a very bright future."

Dunph returned \$10.80, \$6.20 and \$4.80 as the 4-1 third betting choice in the field of nine juveniles. Naughty Joker, ridden by **Julio Garcia**, paid \$5.20 and \$4.20. **Into the South**, under **Florent Geroux**, was a head back of the runner-up and returned \$5.20. They were followed by **Kajawa**, **Gentle Warrior**, mild 7-2 favorite **Casa Creed**, B. B. Dude, **Achilles Warrior** and **Distorted Jimmy**.

Dunph was bred in Kentucky by **Equus Farm**.

Racing at Churchill Downs resumes Wednesday at 1 p.m. with a 10-race program. There is a \$27,659 carryover in the 20-cent Single 6 Jackpot, which covers Races 5-10.

## SPENDTHRIFT QUOTES

**Tyler Gaffalione, jockey of DUNPH (winner):** "The horse broke really sharp and I got into the spot I wanted. When I turned for home I still had a ton of horse left. I think he'll just keep getting better as the distances get longer. I think I like it here in Kentucky."

**Mike Maker, trainer of DUNPH:** "That was very impressive. He's been doing well over at Trackside and has a very bright future."

**Julio Garcia, jockey of NAUGHTY JOKER (runner-up):** "We couldn't get to the winner but she did well."

**Ignacio Correas IV, trainer of INTO THE SOUTH (third):** "She ran a nice race. She's still young and can keep improving."

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